



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
**Department of Agricultural Resources**  
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DEVAL L. PATRICK  
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
Lieutenant Governor

IAN A. BOWLES  
Secretary

SCOTT J. SOARES  
Acting Commissioner

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Massachusetts Dairy Farmers  
**From:** Scott J. Soares, Acting Commissioner  
**Date:** May 25, 2007  
**Re:** Application for Dairy Farm Relief

On May 18, 2007 Governor Deval Patrick signed into law a supplemental appropriations bill, now Chapter 42 of the Acts of 2007, that contained a dairy farm relief package. One component of the relief package is to provide Massachusetts dairy farmers with \$3.6 million in emergency relief grants to be distributed according to a program established by the Department of Agricultural Resources ("Department"). Another component is to establish a 17-member Dairy Farm Revitalization Task Force to study long-term solutions for the Commonwealth's dairy farms. The Task Force is in its formative stage, and we will provide more information about its development in the coming weeks. As a result of this legislation, our immediate attention is focused on distribution of relief grants.

The \$3.6 million emergency relief grants will be distributed to eligible dairy farmers based upon a formula that considers all eligible milk production during 2006. Only those farmers who produced milk during 2006 and held a certificate of registration, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 94 §16A, at least one month during 2006 and who hold an un-expired certificate of registration that is eligible for renewal on July 1, 2007 at the time of the application submission are eligible for grants through this program.

To ensure eligibility for a payment through this program, eligible Massachusetts dairy farmers must complete and sign the enclosed **2007 Massachusetts Dairy Relief Program Application** and W-9 form. If payment through electronic funds transfer ("EFT") is preferred, applicants should also complete the EFT form, which is also included in this packet. All applications and W-9 forms must be complete and received by the Department **no later than 4:00 p.m. June 22, 2007. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted. Applications received after 4:00 p.m. June 22, 2007 will not be accepted.** We strongly recommend that applications be sent by certified mail return receipt requested or by some other verifiable method.

After the deadline has passed, the Department will process all complete eligible applications that have been received. This process will include data entry and verification of reported production data.

After all eligible applications have been processed and production data verified, the relief payment will be calculated and payments made.

For those who would like to learn more about the program or have questions about completion of the application materials, the Department has scheduled three lunch time information sessions to provide a general overview of the program and to collect any completed application packages. These information sessions are scheduled as follows:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>Thursday</b> May 31, 2007, 11:30 AM-12: 30 PM.	Massachusetts Farm Bureau 466 Chestnut Street Ashland, MA 01721
<b>Wednesday</b> June 6, 2007, 11:30 AM-12: 30 PM.	Municipal Office Building 8 Conway Street South Deerfield, MA 01373
<b>Wednesday</b> June 13, 2007 11:30 AM-12: 30 PM	Brookfield Town Hall 6 Central Street Brookfield, MA 01506

You may also visit the Department's website at [www.mass.gov/agr/dairy/legislative\\_relief.htm](http://www.mass.gov/agr/dairy/legislative_relief.htm) to obtain further information. If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 617-626-1700.